GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1766
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
CLEANING OF POLLUTED RIVERS
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri ;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has identified some rivers which are most polluted and need immediate cleaning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for cleaning the polluted rivers during the current Five-Year Plan; and

(d) whether a comprehensive programme has been worked out in consultation with the Ministries and States concerned; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. A study was conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board in the year 2001 in which 71 polluted stretches of rivers were identified across the country having the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), a key parameter indicating organic pollution, greater than 6 mg/l.

(c) to (e) Allocation of outlay under the current Five Year Plan has not been finalized. However, an amount of Rs.254 crores has been provided in the Budget for the financial year 2007-08 for pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is presently under implementation in 164 towns in the country along polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.4793 crore, against which an expenditure of Rs.2617 crore has been incurred so far upto June, 2007 including the expenditure of the respective States' shares. The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, new works to be taken up, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time.